

CLAIMS

1. Packaging for foodstuffs to be offered for sale, comprising:

an integral receptacle having on its top side a mouth opening and on its underside a bottom with an upright body connecting thereto and having at least one flat body part;

which mouth opening is bounded by a mouth rim which lies substantially in a flat plane and which, after filling of the receptacle with foodstuff and optionally a chosen gas or gas mixture, can co-act in hermetically sealing manner with a lid, for instance a foil connected by sealing to the mouth rim;

a generally flat displaceable part which forms part of the bottom, the body part or the lid and acts as displacer, which part is connected to the remaining peripheral part of respectively the bottom, the body part or the lid by an at least one-dimensionally elastically deformable coupling edge; and

optionally a filling with a gas serving as protective atmosphere, for instance a mixture of CO₂ and N₂ or CO₂ and O₂;

characterized in that

the displaceable part has a generally rectangular shape corresponding with the shape of said remaining part of the bottom, the body or the lid;

the surface area of the displaceable part amounts to at least 50% of the total surface area of the bottom, the body or the lid;

the displaceable part substantially has bending stiffness;

an elastically deformable zone is situated in each of the four corner zones of the coupling edge and over the whole periphery of the displaceable part;

this such that the displaceable part is movable between a first position displaced to the outside and a second position displaced to the inside.

2. Packaging as claimed in claim 1,

- characterized in that
the displaceable part is situated in the bottom and
that in the first position the receptacle can rest on
the displaceable part of the bottom and in the second
5 position can rest on the bottom edge.
3. Packaging as claimed in claim 1,
characterized in that
the deformable zone consists at least in said
corner zones of at least two hinge lines.
- 10 4. Packaging as claimed in claim 1,
characterized in that
the deformable zone comprises a rolling zone.
5. Packaging as claimed in claim 3,
characterized in that
15 the hinge lines are corrugations protruding out of
the local main plane of the receptacle.
6. Packaging as claimed in claim 3,
characterized in that
the hinge lines are zones with reduced thicknesses.
- 20 7. Packaging as claimed in claim 1,
characterized in that
the receptacle consists of plastic.
8. Packaging as claimed in claim 3,
characterized in that
25 the receptacle is manufactured by thermoforming or
vacuum-forming, for instance from a laminate.
9. Packaging as claimed in claim 3,
characterized in that
the receptacle is manufactured by injection
30 moulding.
10. Packaging as claimed in claim 1,
characterized in that
both the first position and the second position of
the displaceable part are stable, and the configuration
35 thus possesses a bistable character.
11. Packaging as claimed in claim 1,
characterized in that
the receptacle consists substantially of foam
material.
- 40 12. Packaging as claimed in claim 8,
characterized in that

the receptacle is formed from a strip of foam material.

13. Packaging as claimed in claim 12, characterized in that

5 the strip of foam material is manufactured by extrusion and optional sizing.

14. Packaging as claimed in claim 13, characterized in that

by a laminating operation following the extrusion
10 there is arranged on at least one side a foil layer, for instance an oxygen-barrier foil.

15. Packaging as claimed in claim 12, characterized in that

the strip of foam material is not fully foamed and
15 that by supplying heat to the mould cavity of a die an additional foaming occurs, whereby a desired, for instance uniform wall thickness can be obtained.

16. Packaging as claimed in claim 6, characterized in that

20 the hinge lines are formed by ribs present in the mould cavities of a die.

17. Packaging as claimed in claim 16, characterized in that

the ribs are situated on a releasable insert which
25 has to be positioned in the mould cavity of the die.

18. Packaging as claimed in claim 11, characterized in that

the hinge lines are formed by pressing against a formed receptacle an optionally heated stamp having ribs
30 corresponding with the hinge lines.

19. Packaging as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that

the receptacle is formed from a blank consisting substantially of cardboard.

35 20. Packaging as claimed in claim 19, characterized in that

the blank is provided with a foil, for instance an oxygen-barrier foil, on at least the side of the blank later forming the inside of the receptacle.

40 21. Packaging as claimed in claim 19, characterized in that

the receptacle is formed from the blank by a mould with a forming surface and corresponding stamp.

22. Packaging as claimed in claim 19,
characterized in that

5 the receptacle is formed by first removing the four corner zones from the blank and subsequently folding the walls upward and adhering these walls sealingly to each other in mutually overlapping relation.

23. Packaging as claimed in claims 20 and 22,
10 characterized in that

the blank is provided on both sides with a foil, and the sealing adhesion is brought about by a welding operation.

24. Packaging as claimed in claim 19,
15 characterized in that

the receptacle is formed by placing a paper fibre pulp in a mould cavity corresponding with the receptacle and causing it to dry, optionally under pressure and/or with heating.

25. Packaging as claimed in claim 1,
20 characterized in that

the receptacle consists of aluminium, for instance with a thickness in the order of magnitude of 60 μm .

26. Packaging as claimed in claim 1,
25 characterized in that

the packaging is intended for potatoes and/or fish or products based thereon, that the gas mixture contains CO_2 and N_2 and that the ratio of these gas components amounts to 70:30, preferably 80:20 and still more
30 preferably 90:10.

27. Packaging as claimed in claim 1,
characterized in that

the packaging is intended for meat or products based thereon, that the gas mixture contains CO_2 and O_2
35 and that the ratio of these components is chosen to achieve an optimum in respect of discolouration of the packed foodstuff and the shelf life.

28. Packaging as claimed in claim 1,
characterized in that

40 the packaging is intended for frozen goods, for instance ice cream or deep-frozen products, wherein the

protective atmosphere is absent and wherein after removal of the lid the frozen product can be released from the receptacle by pressing the displaceable part inward.